FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 4 *5 January 1979*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Presides Over Palestinian Military Council Meeting [VOP] A 1
Khalid al-Hasan Holds Press Conference in Kuwait A 1
Jordanian-Palestinian Dialog A 2
PLO Spokesman Abu Mayzar Praises Palestinian-Iraqi Talks A 2
Yasir 'Arafat Receives Nasirite Group Delegation [VOP] A 2
PLO Invites Lebanese Nationalist Movement to PNC Meeting A 3
Kuwaiti Paper Says Arab Minisummit Set for 20 Jan A 3

ARABIAN PENINSULA

SAUDI ARABIA

Taipei Economic Minister Begins Official Visit C 1

UAE

UAE President Leaves for Private Visit to Pakistan C 1

YEMEN--PDRY

Aden: PLO Official Arrives in PDRY C 1

YEMEN--YAR

Vice President Receives Soviet Ambassador in Sana'a' C 1

EGYPT

Defense Minister Speaks to Army Units in Luxor, Aswan D 1
Al-Akhbar Comments on Situation in Syria D 1
Press Reports As-Sadat Message to Israel's Peres D 2
As-Sadat Orders Building of New Cities Around Cairo D 2
Oil Prospecting Contract Signed With British Petroleum D 2
Briefs: As-Sadat Illness Treated D 2

JORDAN

JORDAN TIMES Urges Realistic View of Israeli Settlement Policy [5 Jan] F 1
Amman Views Egyptian-Israeli 'Differences' F 1
Amman Decries 'Test Ballons' of Camp David Partners F 2

LEBANON

Voice of Lebanon Reports on Security Situation G 1
VOP Reports Israeli Troop Movements in South G 1
INA: Rightists Kidnap Citizens G 1

SYRIA:

AR-RA'Y: Syria To Reshuffle Posts for Unity With Iraq [5 Jan] H 1
Syrian-Iraqi Economic Cooperation Officials Meet H 1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Bitat Thanks Mauritanian Leader for Condolences I 1
Bouteflika Cables Mauritanian Counterpart I 1
Revolution Council Pledges Loyalty to Revolution's Principles I 2
[EL MOUDJAHID 28 Dec]
Boudiaf Ready to 'Play a Role' If Given Chance [L'AURORE 3 Jan] I 3

LIBYA

DPRK Vice President Pak Song-chol Ends 5-Day Visit I 3
Saharan Foreign Minister Ends 2-Day Visit I 4

WESTERN SAHARA

SPLA Communique on Losses Inflicted in New Offensive I 4

ISRAEL

Local Industry Expects Larger Part of U.S. Defense Budget N 1
[DAVAR 4 Jan]
Washington Expected To Grant Special Financial Aid [DAVAR 4 Jan] N 1
U.S. Embassy Denies Involvement in Drug Smuggling N 2
['AL HAMISHMAR 4 Jan]
Likud Members Express Views on Settlement N 3
Gush Emunim Reacts To Begin Statement on Settlements N 3
Cabinet Orders Planning for New W. Bank Settlements [MA'ARIV 5 Jan] N 4
Sharon Denies He Was To Find Alternate Site for Settlers N 4
[MA'ARIV 4 Jan]
Gush Emunim Demonstration Ends, Some Detained N 4
Reservists Maintaining Order at Makhpella Cave N 5
Herut Members Call for Changes in Method of Government N 5

IRAN

Shah's Decree Appoints Bakhtiar as Prime Minister R 1
Parliament Approves Nomination R 1
Tehran Reported 'Calmer'; Demonstrations in Shiraz R 1
Tehran Denies Air Force Commander Has Resigned R 1
Tehran Reports 3 Jan Demonstrations in Masjed Soleyman R 2
Pipeline Workers 'Advised' To Resume Work R 2
French Paper Reports Publication of Tudeh Party 'Communique' R 2
Additions to Report on Bakhtiar Press Conference R 2

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA

Manufacture of Alternate Nuclear Fuel Said Possible S 1

PAKISTAN

SRV's Trinh Completes 3-Day Official Visit, Leaves S 1
Ashgar Khan's Party Will Not Join PNA S 1
Charges Filed Against Azad Kashmir Officials S 1

'ARAFAT PRESIDES OVER PALESTINIAN MILITARY COUNCIL MEETING

JN041817Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, today presided over a plenary meeting of the Military Council of the Palestinian revolution. The discussion dealt with the current situation and Zionist enemy movements and provocations in southern Lebanon. Brother Abu 'Ammar gave his instructions to the members of the Military Council.

KHALID AL-HASAN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT

NC041701Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Jan--Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan has urged the Arab states to give material support to the Palestinian revolution through the Palestinian National Fund. He also urged the Arab states, particularly Libya, to stop payments to any of the Palestinian organizations which are not linked with the PLO, its executive committees and the national fund.

At a press conference he held today in Kuwait, Khalid al-Hasan added that if the Arab states heed this call, it will end the Palestinian fragmentation and the Palestinian Arab commitments which reflect unjustifiable contradictions.

Khalid al-Hasan also said that at its next meeting, the Palestine National Council must assume responsiblity for organizing the process for achieving Palestinian national unity and the unity of Palestinian action.

Commenting on today's report by the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM that Syria and Libya have reaffirmed their readiness to provide the aid necessary for setting up a Palestinian government in their territories and that Kuwait is prepared to support this government, Khalid al-Hasan said: The idea of a provisional government is not bad but the suitable time for establishing it is still remote, as far as the Palestinian revolution is concerned.

Khalid al-Hasan said that the establishment of a provisional Palestinian government would create much confusion in the Palestinian movement and would be a cause for mockery, if not destruction. He pointed out in this regard that the structure of the PLO Executive Committee's organs does not differ from that of a provisional or permanent government.

Khalid al-Hasan also pointed out that 4 years ago Libya proposed the establishment of a provisional Palestinian government headquartered in Tripoli and offered to cover its expenses. He described this as one of the attempts by some Arab states to turn the Palestinian struggle into an instrument of these states. He asserted that the strength of the Palestinian decision lies in its independence and timing and that any harm to this will damage the Palestinian cause and the interests of the Arab struggle.

Jordanian-Palestinian Dialog

JN042014Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan has praised the Joint Charter for National Action between Syria and Iraq.

At a press conference in Kuwait today, Al-Hasan added that this charter represents an integrated Arab strategy. Khalid al-Hasan also reiterated his support for the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog. He said that Jordan's commitment to the resolutions of the Baghdad summit conference and Jordan's rejection of the two Camp David agreements and the autonomy plan impose on the PLO the duty of extending its hand to Jordan for a constructive dialog to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions.

PLO SPOKESMAN ABU MAYZAR PRAISES PALESTINIAN-IRAQI TALKS

JN042022Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan--'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that the talks the PLO delegation has held with the Iraqi officials were fruitful and extremely successful. He added that the view on all subjects were identical.

Abu Mayzar, who was talking to Baghdad television this evening, expressed his complete confidence that these talks will contribute to further consolidating relations between the PLO and the party and revolution leadership in Iraq. He added that the talks and the visit are of special significance because they come before the meeting of the Palestine National Council.

Dealing with the stregic aspects of the Joint Charter for National Action between Iraq and Syria in the Palestinian revolution arena, Abu Mayzar said: "We consider this charter a splended revolutionary and pan-Arab accomplishment [words indistinct] to serve as a sincere revolutionary reply to the imperialist-Zionist onslaught."

Abu Mayzar added that the charter constitutes a firm and strategic base for the Arab liberation movement and the Palestinian revolution. This charter, Abu Mayzar concluded, is bound to provide the [word indistinct] with a new surge, new impetus, new force and wider and better capabilities.

YASIR 'ARAFAT RECEIVES NASIRITE GROUP DELEGATION

JN050654Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 5 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday received a delegation from the Political Bureau of the Nasirite Organization, Union of the Working People's Forces, headed by its secretary general, brother Kamal Shatila. The delegation also included brother Hasan Matar, 'Adnan Badr and [name indistinct].

The delegation members congratulated brother Abu 'Ammar on the 14th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. The meeting was attended by brother Abu Jihad, member of the Fatah movement Central Committee and member of the General Command of Al-'Asifah forces.

The delegation members expressed the solidarity of the working people's forces and all nationalist forces with the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people. The delegation members also highlighted the revolutionary and national schemes of Fatah movement [words indistinct] facing Zionist and imperialist onslaughts.

PLO INVITES LEBANESE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT TO PNC MEETING

JN0510407 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 5 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 5 Jan--The Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement has been invited by the PLO to participate in the work of the Palestine National Council [PNC] meetings scheduled to be held in Damascus on 15 January.

Tawfiq Sultan, vice chairman of the movement's political council, has stated that the Lebanese Nationalist Movement will participate in the meetings with a high-level delegation which will reflect the relations of cohesion existing between the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

In a statement here today, Tawfiq Sultan called for a meeting of the secretariat of the Arab Front, which is participating in the Palestinian revolution, to be held after the PNC meeting to enable the Arab Front to assume its popular and political role at this stage.

On the other hand, Palestinian sources have revealed that the work program currently being prepared by the resistance factions and which will be discussed at the PNC meeting will be ready during the next 2 days. These sources added that the PNC session will witness the return of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine to the PLO Executive Committee after an absence of more than 3 years.

KUWAITI PAPER SAYS ARAB MINISUMMIT SET FOR 20 JAN

LD0510357 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--A local newspaper said today that an Arab minisummit to include the leaders of Iraq, Syria, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), will be held in Damascus on 20 January.

Quoting Arab diplomatic sources, Al-Qabas said that a Syrian-Iraqi summit will precede the minisummit in the form of the meeting of the Higher Political Committee which the two countries had set up in accordance with the Joint Charter for National Action they signed last October. It added that the Syrian-Iraqi meeting is scheduled for 18 January and will be attended by the Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and by the vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Saddam Husayn.

It added that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn will leave for Moscow after the quadripartite summit. It pointed out that this visit was due to have taken place last month but was postponed because of Syrian-Soviet differences over arms shipments, which Saddam Husayn was able to rectify during his visit to Moscow last month.

It said that there is a great possibility that the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat, will accompany President al-Asad and Saddam Husayn to Moscow if the forthcoming session of the Palestine National Council in Damascus on 15 January yields positive results.

SAUDI ARABIA

TAIPEI ECONOMIC MINISTER BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT

LD050616Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Chang Kwang-shih, minister of economic affairs of the Republic of China, arrived in Jidda Thursday evening for a week's visit to the kingdom at the invitation of Ghazi al-Qusaybi, Saudi minister of industry and electricity.

The Chinese minister will hold talks with the minister of industry and electricity on bolstering economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. He will also sign an agreement for the establishment of a joint chemical plant on the eastern coast of the kingdom.

UAE

UAE PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR PRIVATE VISIT TO PAKISTAN

JN041346Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1315 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 4 Jan--His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, left at 1645 today for Pakistan on a private visit that will last several days.

Yemen--PDRY

ADEN: PLO OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN PDRY

LD041850Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Summary] Secretary General of the Palestine Liberation Front Talat Yaqub arrived in Aden today for a visit which will last several days.

"In a statement on arrival, brother Talat Yaqub said that during his visit to Democratic Yemen, he will hold talks with brothers in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] on Arab issues, the position of the Palestinian revolution and world issues. He also hoped to benefit from Democratic Yemen's pioneer and revolutionary experience in building the YSP. Brother Talat Yaqub called on the revolutionary progressive forces in the Arab homeland to confront and resist imperialist designs in the region, particularly following the Camp David accords and their results."

Yemen--YAR

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN SAN'A'

JN041217Y San'a Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president and speaker of the People's Constituent Assembly, this morning received in his office his excellency the Soviet ambassador in San'ai. The discussion during this meeting dealt with relations between the two friendly countries.

DEFENSE MINISTER SPEAKS TO ARMY UNITS IN LUXOR, ASWAN

NC041840Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 4 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Aswan, 4 January--Egyptian Defense Minister and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali has reaffirmed that Egypt will not sign a separate agreement with Israel and is determined to link the peace treaty with a solution to the Palestinian problem, which is the core of the dispute in the Middle East. He said that the treaty must not grant Israel a privileged position.

During his meetings with members of the armed forces in Luxor and Aswan yesterday and today, the defense minister said that the continuation of peace and the independence of Egypt's will depend on the continued presence of watchful and strong deterrent forces that are mobile, equipped with modern weapons, highly efficient and have strong firepower. Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that the task of the armed forces in peace does not differ from their task in war: to serve as a shield for the homeland. He also said that the use of modern weapons and equipment does not require the current manpower level, and that a reduction would not affect the formations and the forces combat efficiency. The general stressed the need to raise the standard of social services for the armed forces. He referred to the inevitability of eradicating illiteracy among soldiers before their military service ends. He also pointed out that it has been decided to direct the armed forces fuel consumption in line with the policy of directing state expenditures.

The commander in chief spent yesterday and this morning on a visit to the southern military zone. He held a meeting with the air defense units in Luxor and another meeting with the command in Aswan, which was attended by groups of the various units in the area.

During his speech in Luxor, the commander in chief of the armed forces highlighted the importance of air defense. He referred to its splendid performance during the October 1973 battles and stressed the importance of continually developing it within the framework of the general plan for the development of the armed forces.

Defense Minister and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali left Aswan for Cairo this afternoon after having participated in welcoming President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat on his arrival in Aswan at noon today.

AL-AKHBAR COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN SYRIA

NC050735Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 5 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 January--In its commentary today, AL-AKHBAR discusses the present developments in Syria caused by the current crisis in Syrian-Soviet relations. In this respect the newspaper refers to the TASS announcement on the arrival of Syrian Defense Minister Maj Gen Mustafa Talas in Moscow. It says that observers in Moscow believe that the visit is within the framework of the efforts being made to settle Syrian-Soviet differences that have broken out over Syria's request for advanced weapons from the Soviet Union. The newspaper says that the Soviet Union's refusal to provide Syria with advanced weapons has created a crisis between both countries. The crisis has caused side-effects and obstacles, and since then, Syria has been living in a mysterious and tense atmosphere, which the authorities have been trying to conceal. At the same time, there are daily reports of a state of discontent in the Syrian Army, of the dismissal of scores and even hundreds of officers and of a violent dispute within the army and government between the Sunnis and the 'Alawites, who hold power.

The newspaper adds that in the midst of these events Major General Talas has made a visit to Moscow so that the Soviets, as is their custom in such a situation, will shower him with generous promises and adopt a stand toward him with which they will conceal their former stand toward Major General ash-Shihabi. Concluding its comment, the newspaper affirms that the Soviets will give Syria neither advanced nor semiadvanced weapons since they are asking that they should first become the real rulers of Syria and that Damascus should become completely subservient to Moscow.

PRESS REPORTS AS-SADAT MESSAGE TO ISRAEL'S PERES

NC0506457 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 5 Jan 79 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] The Cairo newspapers highlight the message President Anwar as-Sadat has sent to [Israeli Labor Party chairman] Shim'on Peres in reply to his message of congratulations to the president on his birthday. In his message, As-Sadat said that Egypt had opened the door to just peace designed to create a better future for the peoples of the Middle East, and that the Egyptian people want genuine peace to achieve progress despite the many obstacles in the way. The papers also pointed out that Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil is expected to send a message tomorrow to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance containing the Egyptian views, which affirm Egypt's readiness to exert efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East in light of the recent Cabinet decisions.

AS-SADAT ORDERS BUILDING OF NEW CITIES AROUND CAIRO

NC0409207 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 4 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 January--President Anwar as-Sadat has issued instructions for the construction of five new cities around Cairo at a distance of 25-30 km from the heart of the capital. Some (?50,000) low- and medium-priced houses will be allocated to employees and workers with limited incomes within a 3-year period. AL-AHRAM reports that the president has asked that engineering plans be started immediately for building and supplying these cities with the necessary utilities and communications to link them with the Cairo area. Minister of Reconstruction and New Socieities Eng Hasabbah al-Kafawi has stated that studies will begin within a few days to build these cities. The first will be built on the Cairo-Suez road; the second on the Cairo-Al-Fayyum road; the third on the Bilbays road; the fourth on the Al-Ma'adi-Al-al-'Ayn as-Sukhnah road; and the fifth in Hulwan.

OIL PROSPECTING CONTRACT SIGNED WITH BRITISH PETROLEUM

NC0506477 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Jan 79 NC

[Text] A constract has been signed with the British Petroleum company for oil prospecting in Sinai in the areas around Ra's Muhammad and Sahl al-Biqa' after Israel's withdrawal from these areas. The British company will spend $19 million within 8 years and will pay Egypt $2 million as a grant on signing the contract.

BRIEFS

AS-SADAT ILLNESS TREATED--According to Arab diplomats, As-Sadat is being treated secretly for a disease that follows specific stages of development and about which no one knows the true seriousness. [Text] [Paris LE POINT 18 Dec 78 p 39 WA]

JORDAN TIMES URGES REALISTIC VIEW OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY

JN0507362 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Jan 79 p 2 JN

[Editorial: "Unsettling Truths"]

[Text] We are supposed to be impressed by Israel's show of "good faith" in ordering its army to prevent members of the extremist Gush Emunim Movement from establishing "unauthorized" Jewish settlements on the occupied West Bank.

It is obviously convenient for Israel to use its own more unruly elements as scapegoats to deflect world attention from the government's own official policy on the occupied territories in general and the construction of future settlements in particular.

For, despite the stipulations of the Camp David accords regarding the building of more settlements, Israeli officials have been quite blunt in signalling their real intentions.

The officer in charge of Israel's occupation forces, Major General Abraham Orly, has spoken of settlements on Arab land as "part of our defence philosophy" and "vital to Israel's security." Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has told a symposium in Tel Aviv that Israel plans to build 20 new settlements in the Jordan Valley in the next four years, and that it was time that all the world was aware of these intentions. And the deputy defence minister, Mr. Mordechai Zipori, has said that sites for new settlements are already being prepared and that, in fact, road-building and site-clearing continued throughout the three-month "freeze" on new settlement activity imposed after the Camp David summit.

The outposts being established by the Gush Emunim are jerry-built affairs designed not so much for living in as for testing the government's stated policy of "thickening" existing settlements and building new ones.

So let no one mistake the deliberately provocative, and publicity conscious actions of a lunatic fringe for the very real dangers afforded by Israel's official settlements policy. For while it is tearing down the Gush Emunim's shacks and barricades near Nablus with one hand--with the world's press looking on--Israel is with the other hand, systematically planning three or four new outposts in the Jordan Valley, and another one near Bethany, and another one at Shiloh (where a settlement is already in place, disguised as an archaeological dig). And the same Israeli Army which is removing the Gush Emunim fanatics is also planning to hand over Camp Kadum to civilian settlers. Let us not be confused about "authorised" or "unauthorised" settlements.

AMMAN VIEWS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI 'DIFFERENCES'

JN3018432 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] The public contradictions between the statements of Egyptian and Israeli officials have aggravated recently, particularly as regards the interpretation of the autonomy question. While the Egyptians believe that autonomy should mean the establishment of a Palestinian state, Begin replies that Israel has decided to grant the inhabitants of Judea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip administrative autonomy while safeguarding Israel's security and that of the citizens of Israel.

While President as-Sadat is declaring that the Palestinian people have the right to have a homeland, Begin says that the establishment of autonomy in Judea and Samaria is aimed at not dividing the Holy Land again but coexisting between the Arabs and Jews in the area of Judea and Samaria such as the coexistence between the two sides in the State of Israel.

Although such talk gives the impression that the differences are over the crux of the dispute in the Middle East, the truth is that the statements made by Cairo and Tel Aviv and the discussions which have taken place, despite the great difference in viewpoints, revolve around insignificant technicalities while the crux of the problem has not been dealt with. We say this because the agreement on the comprehensive framework of the Camp David summit totally ignored the basic, constant and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Any peace treaty between two sides in the area based on the obliteration of the rights of the Palestinian people will not be a peace treaty but a rearrangement of the status quo which carries the seeds of violence, resistance and wars in conditions which might help Israel unilaterally liquidate the Palestine issue by armed force. Therefore, the contradictions over technicalities in the statements made by the Egyptian and Israeli officials might lead to bridging the gap of differences or not. However, these contradictions will not deceive anyone in the area, because these contradictions are not over the real crux of the basic issue.

In the absence of the disputant sides, no agreement will lead to the establishment of a comprehensive peace, and the existing contradictions will not lead to acquitting the Camp David agreements of the guilt of failing to understand the historic dispute between the Arabs and Zionism over the land of Palestine.

The Arabs should understand, before it is too late, that Israel's peaceful intentions in the negotiations with Egypt are only a cover for Israel's strategy to seize the historic land of Israel, or what they call the whole of Palestine.

No peace treaty can disguise the reality of expansionist Zionism which covets Arab lands and wants to expand and which sees aggression as its means to achieve this. In Zionism's view, the departure of Egypt from the Arab fold will facilitate its forthcoming mission because it will give it a free hand in the Arab homeland. This is the dangerous phenomenon which the Arabs understood in Baghdad. We hope that Egypt will understand this phenomenon before it is too late.

AMMAN DECRIES 'TEST BALLOONS' OF CAMP DAVID PARTNERS

JN0118152 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Reports speaking of possible Arab meetings have increased recently, intending to insinuate that there are possibilities of support for the Camp David agreements among the Arab ranks. As a matter of fact, the Camp David conference was arranged on the assumption there are Arabs who will help to peddle these agreements and Arabs who will oppose them.

The stages of the negotiations among the three parties to the Camp David conference have indicated that they are beset by such a conviction, as shown by the test balloons put out by the propaganda media recruited to serve the objectives of the Camp David conference.

Although the ninth Arab summit conference held in Baghdad permanently nullified this possibility through the solidarity of the Arabs in a united stand--a stand which clings to the requisites of a just and comprehensive peace based on the major principles approved by the international community in its resolutions No 242 and 338--what is being said at the current stage brings back to mind the concentrated campaign which accompanied the Camp David agreements to find more supporters in the Arab world by hinting at the existence of contacts regarding this subject.

It seems that the current concentrated propaganda campaign aims primarily at testing the degree of cohesion of the states which participated in the Baghdad conference and the degree of firmness of the unified Arab decision which was taken in Baghdad against all the attempts being undertaken to peddle the Camp David agreements.

The past stages of the bilateral negotiations have exposed the results of the Camp David agreements which, even in their vague context, seem to aim at sacrificing the Palestinian cause, land, people and rights in order to peddle a separate solution. These bilateral negotiations have also exposed Israel's barefaced designs to liquidate the Palestinian issue and encourage Israeli extremism to openly claim that the occupied Palestinian territories are liberated Israeli land.

The past stage of negotiations fragmented Arab ranks, amputated the continued international efforts to find a real way to peace, aborted international resolutions, and circumvented the facts of international unanimity by giving new interpretations to the conflict. It is this high price paid by the Arabs that should be the subject of discussion and not the fabrication of a false impression that there are new supporters of the bilateral negotiations in order to open breaches in the halls of the Baghdad summit.

Despite our absolute conviction that such desperate attempts will not succeed in finding new supporters for the Camp David agreements and the bilateral negotiations--because peace which does not regain the land is not worth considering--we still believe that the issue under discussion and the negotiations in the Middle East should not be the subject of maneuvers a la Camp David which grants legitimacy to Zionist occupation and accepts the fait accompli by force of arms in the Middle East.

The road to peace should be clear just as peace is clear which is based on justice and permanence and which cannot be established by partial or separate solutions if it is not based on Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, particularly Jerusalem, and the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, especially their right to their land and to free self-determination.

The arduous tripartite efforts to forge ahead toward a just and comprehensive settlement have failed. The maneuvers being carried out by this or that party to fragment Arab ranks or to find probable supporters for Camp David will not lead to a better result either. Hence, the state of no war and no peace will continue in the area despite all the efforts exerted to salvage it from stagnation on the road to establishing a genuine peace acceptable to all the parties to the conflict in the Middle East.

The three parties should understand that Arab solidarity in Baghdad is stronger than the frail maneuvers which aim at fragmenting Arab ranks. They should also realize that the Baghdad summit conference resolutions are the translation of the will of a nation. They should take into account the reality of the united Arab will which asserted itself at this stage which threatens the Arab cause with total liquidation in favor of the enemies of the nation and those who covet its resources.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC041842Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 4 Jan 79 NC

[Text] We have just been informed that the Ra's ad-Dikwanah road is unsafe because of heavy sniper fire. Some axes of the southern suburb, particularly 'Ayn ar-Rumannah area, are being subjected to intermittent light sniper fire. Armed men in western Beirut have seized the car of a sergeant in the United Nations. The car has a diplomatic plate. They also seized two other cars with license plate numbers 168,399 and 296,779. It has been reported from the north that Syrian national Nawfal [name indistinct] threw a handgrenade in the middle of a street in Ad-Dabbanah quarter in Tripoli, wounding five persons, including two women.

VOP REPORTS ISRAELI TROOP MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH

JN041819Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Reports from southern Lebanon say that the Zionist enemy yesterday expanded his ground, air and naval military movements. For this reason the joint forces of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian resistance have remained alert and watchful to any new Zionist attack on southern Lebanon. In the eastern sector of southern Lebanon, there are military concentrations backed by columns of armor. Israeli gunboats have also been sighted patrolling the southern coast. Our ground defenses opened fire on a formation of enemy planes which flew at a low altitude over 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyyah wa Miyyah refugee camps in the Sidon area and the Bas and Ras al-'Ayn camps in the Tyre area. The Zionist forces are fortifying border positions in the area under the control of agent Maj Sa'd Haddad. They are also trying to take over complete control the villages of the second line of defense in the western sector of southern Lebanon. Enemy vehicles have arrived in the villages of (Kufayr Hatta) in Tyre district. Ten medium tanks took up position in the area of the village. Tanks belonging to the rightist militias were seen in the villages of 'Aynata and (Sinnin). Enemy forces have set up military positions in 'Alma ash-Sha'b, Marun ar-Ras, an-Naqurah, Kafr Killa, and have supplied these positions with 155-mm guns. The enemy is massing its forces opposite Al-Khiyam, Dibbin, (At-Taysih), At-Tayyibha and Balat, and is also massing other forces in the area between Bint Jubayl and Marj 'Uyun and has set up artillery positions in the Al-Majidiyah area. The reports say that the Zionist forces and the forces of Sa'd Haddad are building gun emplacements in the Al-Majidiyah and Mari areas.

[Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World at 0530 GMT on 5 January says that "a responsible military source of the Joint Command has announced that at 1900 last night forces of the Zionist enemy and the isolationist militias shelled with heavy artillery the area of Hasbayya and suburbs. Two civilians were wounded as a result of this shelling."]

INA: Rightists Kidnap Citizens

JN041725Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 4 January--Elements belonging to the rightwing militias have abducted 10 citizens from the township of Bayt Yahun in the central sector of southern Lebanon and have driven them to an unknown destination. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the rightwing militias have also closed the Bayt Yahun-Bint Jubayl road for military reasons. The INA correspondent adds that the joint forces have blown up two shops in the township of (Ash-Shahabiyah) in the central sector for selling Zionist goods in the area.

AR-RA'Y: SYRIA TO RESHUFFLE POSTS FOR UNITY WITH IRAQ

JN050952Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jan 79 pp 1, 12 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut--It has been officially confirmed in Damascus that the Iraqi-Syrian Higher Political Committee under Presidents al-Asad and al-Bakr will hold an important meeting in the Syrian capital this month to discuss items on its agenda, most important of which is the declaration of political unity between Syria and Iraq.

Reports from Damascus state that new measures have been adopted on the road to unity between both countries to reach a unified formula that will achieve the minimum Syrian-Iraqi aspirations.

It appears that among these important measures, wide changes will be carried out at party and state agencies to achieve harmony in these agencies and overcome all possible future obstacles. On this basis all party and government personalities who were appointed during the serious stage of Syrian-Iraqi unity will be relieved of their posts or appointed to less important posts.

Reports from Damascus also state that the changes will include senior personalities who had important roles in party, state and security organs. It has been mentioned that a high-ranking party official and a senior security figure have been relieved of their posts, with the security official being appointed to a diplomatic post.

SYRIAN-IRAQI ECONOMIC COOPERATION OFFICIALS MEET

JN041723Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The meeting of the Joint Economic and Technical Cooperation Committee between Syria and Iraq will begin in Damascus this evening. [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 1915 GMT on 4 January reports that "the Syrian-Iraqi Joint Economic and Technical Cooperation Committee held its first meeting in the conference hall of the Syrian Central Bank at 1730 today."]

Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received at noon today 'Adnan Husayn, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and planning minister, and the ministers accompanying him.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on the proposed method with which to begin the meetings of the committee and of the subcommittees in light of the studies and working papers already prepared in the sphere of economic cooperation, coordination and integration between both countries.

'Adnan Husayn has expressed his optimism regarding the results of the talks to be held by the committee in Damascus. Husayn said that the talks will be an important step on the road to achieving unity between both fraternal countries.

Upon his arrival in Damascus today, Husayn said that the committee will evaluate the results of technical contacts held between experts of both countries. Husayn added that a thorough study will be carried out by the committee to formulate sound bases for launching the joint economic action, achieve bilateral economic integration, and strengthen cooperation and unity between them.

ALGERIA

BITAT THANKS MAURITANIAN LEADER FOR CONDOLENCES

LD042235Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Telegram from Algerian Head of State Rabih Bitat to Col Moustapha Ould Mohammed Saleck, chairman of the Mauritanian Military Committee for National Recovery and head of the government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania--announcer-read]

[Text] The Algerian people and government have been extremely moved by the message of condolences you sent us on behalf of the Mauritanian people, the Military Committee for National Recovery and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania following the death of President Houari Boumediene. We have also been moved by the various manifestations of sympathy that took place in Mauritania itself on this occasion.

Although diplomatic relations were broken off at the initiative of the Mauritanian Government, we decided to receive the official delegation of your country to the funeral of President Houari Boumediene. This decision confirms that there is not the slightest doubt in our minds that the deep sorrow of the Algerian people is indeed shared by the fraternal people of Maritania. It also confirms that we still have faith in your declared intention to confer a just character and a sincere momentum to the dynamics of peace you initiated on 10 July 1978 throughout the Maghreb region in response to the national aspirations of the Saharan people.

I can therefore assure you, Mr President, that as soon as this problem is justly solved--and you are well placed to see the efforts of good will made by Algeria regarding the dialog that began between the legitimate representatives of the Saharan people and the Mauritanian Government--you will find Algeria, as in the past and in accordance with the wish of President Houari Boumediene, a country receptive to the vast potential of a bold policy of fraternity, cooperation and neighborliness.

Once again, on behalf of the Algerian people and government, our sincere thanks to Mauritania for sharing our grief. Please accept the expression of my deep respect.

Bouteflika Cables Mauritanian Counterpart

LD042235Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Telegram from Brother Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Algerian Council of the Revolution and foreign minister, to Cheikh Ould Mohamed Laghdaf, foreign minister of The Islamic Republic of Mauritania--read by announcer]

[Text] The Algerian people and government are all the more moved by your personal sharing, at the head of the Mauritanian delegation, in the sorrow now afflicting Algeria, since you yourself have been on various occasions charged with the task of finding ways and means likely to restore peace to the region and normalize relations between your country and Algeria.

Because I have had the occasion of appreciating your qualities of an open interlocutor, I can assure you that the part taken by your country, people and government in the trial we are now experiencing is of great significance to Algeria as a whole.

For this reason, and in these grave circumstances, I would like to express my hope that the dynamics of peace announced on 10 July 1978, which has been widely echoed amongst the Saharan fighters, will finally lead to the fulfillment of the national aspirations of the Saharan people and favorably affect the nature of relations between all the peoples of the region. Please accept my high esteem.

REVOLUTION COUNCIL PLEDGES LOYALTY TO REVOLUTION'S PRINCIPLES

LD041333Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 28 Dec 78 pp 1,3 LD

[Apparent text of Algerian Council of the Revolution statement: "Appeal From the Council of the Revolution"]

[Excerpt] Algerian people, President Boumediene died after achieving his objectives to build a socialist state, a state of people's institutions, a state which survives individuals. He died after having developed the community of interests and destiny among the workers and the peasants, thanks to the achievements and gains of the socialist revolution--the same workers and peasants who themselves forge the political and economic decisions.

The president died confident that the revolution, under the authority of the National Liberation Front [FLN], will continue to move on the same course that he outlined, and that the active forces in the country are more mobilized than ever to work for the continuity of the revolution in its agrarian, industrial and cultural dimensions and deal with all greedy ambitions.

Algerian people,

Under the leadership of the great departed one, you have won immense victories throughout a period marked by challenges. Thanks to his wisdom and his clearsightedness, our revolution has been able during this short period to wage the battle for nationalization, recover its national wealth and eliminate foreign domination of the national economy, which the imperialists tried to maintain with the aim of alienating our independence and integrating it into the process of its world strategy.

For President Boumediene, nationalization and the recovery of national wealth were not ends in themselves but a means, part of a coherent politico-economic strategy this great man conceived in the long term, in detail and with perspicacity.

In doing this his objective was to provoke the birth of a new reality, based on new relationships embodied in the industrial, agrarian and cultural revolutions.

These revolutions have rescued the workers and the fellahin from age-old poverty; made them capable of asserting themselves and putting their wishes forward, and guaranteed millions of young people equality of opportunity in education and work.

The revolution has not been confined within the borders of Algeria but has gone beyond them to materially and morally support, with the strength of words and by force of arms, all the free men in the world, in Africa, Asia and Latin America, under the wise guidance of the militant Houari Boumediene, who was convinced that Algeria's fight for a better future and a happy society was an integral part of the struggle waged by all oppressed peoples.

History will remember that President Boumediene carried the standard of our revolution aloft on to the international scene. He was the faithful spokesman of all oppressed peoples, calling for a world governed by justice from which all forms of exploitation would be banished. No revolution can emerge triumphant from the struggles it undertakes or face the challenges from imperialism and reaction if it is not a revolution with healthy objectives and a healthy style, backed by a strategy based on firm and genuine national options.

Algerian people,

We have come a long way with the deceased president along the road to construction and progress. We have promised to defend the gains and achievements of the socialist revolution. We are fully confident that the determination of the masses--at whatever level of revolutionary action they may be--will not be undermined by any events, however important. Faithful to their oath and continuing on their course, these masses will deprive greater awareness, clearsightedness and militant action from their ordeal and experiences. There is no greater proof of loyalty to the revolution and its great guide than the consensus expressed by the entire people, the towns, countryside, factories, fields, schools and institutes, to defend the nation's institutions, its economic and political gains, and rally around the leadership of our great party the FLN, which guarantees the options of the people's masses and guides their militant course.

The best way to perpetuate the memory of our great leader is to continue his task of consolidating a socialist, democratic society, in accordance with the spirit of the National Charter.

The revolution, which has its roots in the heart of this people, who over the centuries have rejected every form of domination, exploitation and deviation, can under no circumstances depart from its objectives, whatever the circumstances and the difficulties encountered. The revolution's slogan will remain continuity with a view to concrete progress, strengthening the foundations of the national identity and its vital elements and loyalty to the revolution's principles in the international sphere.

BOUDIAF READY TO 'PLAY A ROLE' IF GIVEN CHANCE

LD041637Y Paris L'AURORE in French 3 Jan 79 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Boudiaf in Algiers If..."]

[Excerpt] At a time when the Council of the Revolution has just decided to convene shortly a FLN Congress, exiled Algerian oppositionists are following events very attentively. Mohammed Boudiaf, who was one of the leaders of the 1954 uprising, defined his position as follows: "Like all Algerians I will play a role if I and my comrades are given a chance tomorrow to develop our ideas and work in Algeria with all the other forces."

"In 7 and 1/2 years of struggle," he told Europe 1's special envoy, "the FLN has not been able to find a doctrine enabling it to be the basis of the country's development. This is not the Algeria we dreamed of." With reference to President Boumediene's succession, he thought it "probable that the members of the Council of the Revolution, who seem to be holding the reins of power at present, cannot agree among themselves." "I think it is a matter that must be followed, a situation that has not yet become clear," Mr Boudiaf concluded.

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT PAK SONG-CHOL ENDS 5-DAY VISIT

LD041418Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] DPRK Vice President Pak Song-chol left Tripoli this morning at the end of his 5-day visit to the Jamahiriyah. During the visit, he handed Col Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi a message from President Kim Il-song. He also held a number of meetings and talks aimed at increasing cooperation and strengthening relations between the Jamahiriyah and the DPRK.

At Tripoli International Airport, the DPRK vice president was given an official sendoff. Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud led the officials who saw him off. The others included a number of secretaries and the under secretary of the Foreign Secretariat, department heads from the Foreign Secretariat and the DPRK's ambassador in the Jamahiriyah and members of the embassy.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent, Pak Song-chol emphasized the relations between the Jamahiriyah and DPRK and said that these relations stem from the joint struggle waged by both the peoples against imperialism and colonialism. He said these relations will witness development in the future and we shall do our utmost to strengthen further friendship and solidarity between both peoples.

Pak Song-chol praised the great achievements in the Jamahiriyah under the leadership of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and said: The achievements I have seen during this visit are considered clear evidence of the progress being achieved by the Jamahiriyah.

He also hailed the significant position the Jamahiriyah enjoys among other nations and said that this position is due to the policy the Jamahiriyah is pursuing, which consists of confronting imperialism and colonialism, defending human rights and developing and strengthening the nonaligned movement.

In conclusion, he wished the people of the Jamahiriyah further progress in their struggle for development and for the building of a great future.

SAHARAN FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS 2-DAY VISIT

LD041637Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Ibrahim Hakim foreign minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, left Tripoli this afternoon following a 2-day visit to the Jamahiriyah. At the airport he was seen off by a representative of the Arab Liaison Bureau of the General Secretariat for the General People's Congress.

SPLA COMMUNIQUE ON LOSSES INFLICTED IN NEW OFFENSIVE

LD042028Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The "Houari Boumediene" military offensive, staged in honor of the late president, has been launched by the Saharan People's Liberation Army [SPLA], a communique issued today by the Saharan Defense Ministry states.

The communique states that during an attack on the Moroccan occupation troops at Bu Craa, very heavy losses were inflicted on them. At stations 4 and 5 of the phosphate conveyor belt, 35 soldiers belonging to the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces were killed and over 40 others were wounded.

(?By launching) the "Houari Boumediene" offensive, for whose success the Saharan people are determined to make the (?utmost sacrifice), thus paying homage to the memory of the illustrious deceased who waged a lifelong struggle for the triumph of just causes, the SPLA has insisted on marking the start of this new phase by an operation against the occupation forces in the region of Bu Craa, where these forces have concentrated the maximum number of men and materiel in the vain hope of plundering Saharan national resources, the communique stresses.

LOCAL INDUSTRY EXPECTS LARGER PART OF U.S. DEFENSE BUDGET

TA041718Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Jan 79 p 10 TA

[By David Lipkin]

[Text] The Pentagon is inclined to permit Israeli companies to participate in calls for bids it issues without the constraints it imposes on other foreign manufacturers. The companies will in fact compete with U.S. manufacturers on equal terms. This positive trend has recently emerged in a series of discussions held between representatives of the U.S. administration and Israel.

At a meeting in Washington about 2 weeks ago between senior Pentagon representatives and Minister of Economic Affairs [at the Israeli Embassy] Dr Zevi Dinstein, head of the Defense Ministry procurement mission Maj Gen Arye Levi and the embassy's economic counselor Etan Raff, there was a U.S. willingness to reach an arrangement on the participation, without constraints, of Israeli companies in Pentagon calls for bids. Further clarification as well as a legal formulation are still needed, as are appropriate approvals from the U.S. administration.

Up to now, various constraints have been imposed on Israeli companies in their participation in Pentagon calls for bids. One of the constraints is that the Israeli company's bid must be 40 percent lower than that of a U.S. manufacturer. This limited the possibilities of receiving direct orders. U.S. willingness to lift the constraints came as a result of an Israeli request that the Pentagon act to increase its purchases of Israeli products as compared with its purchases from other suppliers and to make arrangements for reciprocal purchases.

The United States has not hidden its fear that Israeli industry will take advantage of the potential situation to sell directly to the Pentagon in order to win a large part of the U.S. Defense Department's purchasing requirements. However, Israeli evaluations point out that in the first year the purchases may reach $50 to $60 million, which would be only a minute part of overall Pentagon purchases. Only gradually will total sales reach approximately $100 million, which is a small part of the overall purchases.

The United States has asked for an assessment of the level of sales by Israeli plants to the Pentagon. Clarifications of and investigations into this subject are expected.

Israeli circles in the United States believe that, if final approval for this new trend in the Pentagon is given, it will constitute an important step toward marking a large increase in Israeli exports to the United States. This will enable metal and electronics plants to increase greatly their scale of production and to direct it to the U.S. defense market.

WASHINGTON EXPECTED TO GRANT SPECIAL FINANCIAL AID

TA041826Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Jan 79 p 2 TA

[By David Lipkin]

[Text] There is a good chance that the U.S. administration will comply with Israel's request concerning the special aid involved in implementing the peace agreement with Egypt.

The administration has refrained from holding official discussions on the aid request, claiming that there will only be room for such discussions after the peace treaty is signed.

The Israeli Cabinet has already submitted a request for aid to finance the redeployment in the Negev following the evacuation. The request amounts to $3 billion. In keeping with a U.S. demand, $300 million was removed from the request since this amount was for financing the evacuation of the Rafah approaches settlements and relocating them in the Negev. The United States firmly objected to the inclusion of this in the request.

Based on initial contacts in Washington, it appears that there is a good chance that the United States will respond favorably to the aid request and will extend aid to Israel in the amount of approximately $2.8 billion, and perhaps even a little more. This very much depends on political developments.

The Egyptian request for special U.S. aid has somewhat facilitated Israel's fight for aid. In the past few days there have been reports from Cairo that the Egyptian Government has decided to give its request for U.S. aid special priority status. The Egyptians demand $3 billion in aid instead of the $1 billion they are now receiving.

In Egypt's estimation, there is no chance that they will receive the financial aid they requested from other Arab countries. Due to Egypt's serious economic problems, it urgently needs the financial aid.

In Egypt's estimation, the United States will be forced to formulate a Carter plan for economic aid to Israel and Egypt. This plan will involve billions of dollars.

U.S. EMBASSY DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG SMUGGLING

TA041622Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[Text] Yesterday, MK Ehud Olmert submitted to Interior and Police Minister Yosef Burg a query based on a document issued by the FBI and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration on 5 December 1977. This document deals primarily with several Israeli figures who have been made police targets in the fight against organized crime.

A copy of the document is in the hands of our correspondent.

Among other things, the document says that the U.S. diplomatic mail service and its embassies in the FRG and Israel are being used to smuggle heroin. Also, pouches sent by the U.S. Embassy in Israel are being used for drug smuggling.

Yesterday, the U.S. Embassy spokesman issued a statement referring to Olmert's query.

The spokesman said that a report on allegations pertaining to the use of embassy mail for the transfer of drugs in connection with the drug smuggling which occurred in 1970 was brought to the attention of the Tel Aviv Embassy at the beginning of 1978.

At the embassy's request, the Israeli authorities and the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration have conducted an investigation into the matter. Similarly, the embassy conducted its own internal investigation.

These investigations, the spokesman claims, turned up no evidence to support the allegations which appeared in the original document of December 1977 concerning the involvement of the embassy mail service in drug smuggling.

LIKUD MEMBERS EXPRESS VIEWS ON SETTLEMENT

TA041505Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Jan 79 TA

[Text] We have established many settlements like Elon More and have opened up Samaria for settlement. The demonstrations of Gush Emunim are unnecessary. Settlement activity will continue.

These remarks were made by Prime Minister Menahem Begin in a stormy meeting with Likud Knesset members. The meeting lasted for 4 hours and, afterward, several of the participants told correspondent Razi Barqa'i that they cannot recollect a more dramatic meeting on the settlement issue. A fierce verbal exchange took place between the supporters and opponents of settlement, and the prime minister said: We have grief instead of joy in this room.

The chairman of the meeting, Hayyim Kaufman, even threatened to halt the meeting if spirits did not clam down. The prime minister claimed that Likud members overlook the government's achievements in the sphere of settlement. The government will continue its policy of establishing settlements in Judaea and Samaria and it will do so at the time and at the pace it finds appropriate. He also said that the fleshing out process of settlements is in high gear.

At the meeting, the defense minister said that he is not sure that the settlements help security. We do not want to suppress the Arabs, but to live with them in peace. Weizman added that he prefers fleshing out to new settlements scattered in various places. Minister Moshe Nissim called some of the Gush Emunim members reckless charlatans. Head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee MK Moshe Arens said that we should not delay the settlement of Judaea and Samaria and that, without expropriation of land and a large amount of immigration, we will not be able to complete the task. Knesset Members Yig'al Kohen, Yiga'el Horowitz, Ge'ula Kohen and Moshe Shamir joined him in this opinion. In contrast, MK Hayyim Korfu said that Gush Emunim is a puffed-up balloon.

The prime minister promised the Likud members that the government would fulfill the Likud's platform. He mentioned that he had told President Carter that the settlements are legal.

GUSH EMUNIM REACTS TO BEGIN STATEMENT ON SETTLEMENTS

TA041943Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Gush Emunim reacted to the prime minister's remarks on the settlement issue by saying that it is not declarations but deeds that are needed now. Gush Emunim claims that past experience has proved that nice declarations are followed by poor actions. They demand large-scale settlement in Judaea and Samaria in which billions will be invested. They also demand that many roads be paved in the region.

The prime minister told the Likud faction today that the present government has set up many settlements in Judaea and Samaria and has opened up the region to settlement. He said that the demonstrations of Gush Emunim are unnecessary and that settlement will continue, but at the time and pace set by the government.

CABINET ORDERS PLANNING FOR NEW W. BANK SETTLEMENTS

TA051013Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Jan 79 p 2 TA

[By Yosef Walter]

[Excerpt] The government has instructed the organizations dealing with settlement affairs to begin preparations for new settlements in Judaea and Samaria and for the fleshing-out of existing settlements. This has been reported by knowledgeable sources.

Those sources told the MA'ARIV correspondent that this order was given without reference to the Gush Emunim actions over the past 2 weeks, and that the Nabulus area is not included among the places in which a new settlement will be set up. This is the reason why the Elon More nucleus members--men, women and children--are continuing to stay in the wintry weather near the IDF roadblock near Qaddum for the sixth day. They say: "We are not impressed by talk but by deeds and actual results in the area."

SHARON DENIES HE WAS TO FIND ALTERNATE SITE FOR SETTLERS

TA041750Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jan 79 p 3 TA

[By Yosef Walter]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon said last night in reply to a question from the MA'ARIV correspondent that he does not know about any plan to find a site for the members of the Elon More nucleus who have stationed themselves near the IDF roadblock in the village of Qaddum.

Referring to the report that Prime Minister Menahem Begin promised Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer that he would approach Ari'el Sharon about finding an alternate site for the Elon More settlers, Sharon noted that he did not know of any such intention and had never heard about it.

The MA'ARIV correspondent has learned that the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs had decided to set up a settlement in the Nabulus hills at a site where the Elon More settlers wish to settle. However, the establishment of this settlement was not given first priority. As a result of various constraints confronting the cabinet, the location of the settlement was not approved.

The members of the Elon More nucleus have been waiting by the IDF roadblock near Qaddum for 5 days. They are determined to continue waiting along the road until the cabinet approves their settling in the Nabulus hills.

GUSH EMUNIM DEMONSTRATION ENDS, SOME DETAINED

TA041928Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Ten of the Gush Emunim members who blocked the Tulkarm-Nabulus road this afternoon were detained by the military authorities this evening and turned over to the Nabulus police together with their vehicles. Traffic tickets were issued to the other 10 vehicle owners who participated in blocking the road.

Correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that the roadblock was removed after it had caused a large traffic jam on both sides of the road and after scuffles developed between Gush Emunim members and residents of the territories driving on the road. The Gush Emunim members said they erected the roadblock in order to protest against the fact that the Elon More settlers are not being allowed to continue on their advance toward Nabulus.

RESERVISTS MAINTAINING ORDER AT MAKHPELLA CAVE

TA0421111Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Jan 79 TA

[Text] A large unit of reservists was stationed at the Makhpella Cave today in order to maintain order. The commander of Judaea and Samaria, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, told correspondent Rafiq Halabi that groups of extremist Muslims and Jews have brought the situation at the cave to the threshold of danger. He emphasized that he is resolved to put an end to violations of the status quo at Makhpella Cave. Senior circles in the Defense Ministry are considering closing the cave until spirits calm down. Our correspondent has learned that tomorrow Muslim leaders are going to call on Hebron residents to pray in the cave on Saturday. To date, only a few Muslims have prayed in the Makhpella Cave on Saturdays.

In a meeting with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman this evening, representatives of Qiryat Arba' residents expressed their willingness not to raise the issue of the regulation of prayers in Makhpella Cave until they meet with the minister again. Weizman talked with the Qiryat Arba' representatives for about 3 hours this evening.

HERUT MEMBERS CALL FOR CHANGES IN METHOD OF GOVERNMENT

TA0421211Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Jan 79 TA

[Text] More than 100 Herut members, including Deputy Minister Yoram Aridor, participated today in a meeting which called on the government to improve its method of running the country. A manifesto distributed among the participants of the meeting read: Begin--for the sake of the people, replace Ehrlich.

The organizers, the Circle for Unity and Social Struggle of the Herut Movement, collected signatures on a letter that calls on Begin to introduce direct elections for the post of prime minister. The initiators of the proposal say that a direct election will enable the prime minister to form a cabinet that is not preoccupied with duties in other spheres, such as the party or the Knesset, and thus able to dedicate its entire time to work in the ministries.

SHAH'S DECREE APPOINTS BAKHTIAR AS PRIME MINISTER

LD041646Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The shah's decree on the appointment of Dr Shapur Bakhtiar as prime minister was issued today. Dr Bakhtiar, who had earlier secured the approval of both majlises for the post as prime minister, will soon introduce his cabinet and then announce his government program and seek a vote of confidence from the houses of Parliament.

Parliament Approves Nomination

LD041406Y Tehran in English to Europe 2000 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Iran's Senate and the Majlis, the upper and lower houses of Parliament, today approved the candidature of Shahpur Bakhtiar for the post of prime minister. The two houses of parliament today held special sessions and the majority gave a "yes" vote. Majlis Speaker Javad Sa'id said that during the past 2 days the Majlis deputies held meetings to discuss the country's current situation. Sa'id also said that, if Bahktiar is approved prime minister the Majlis would minutely oversee the affairs of the new government.

A total of 165 deputies were present at today's session out of which 25 members abstained from giving their opinion on the subject of the new prime minister.

TEHRAN REPORTED 'CALMER'; DEMONSTRATIONS IN SHIRAZ

LD041316Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tehran and other Iranian cities were calmer today than previous days. There were only scattered demonstrations in a few towns. Most of the shops in the Tehran bazaar and the neighboring area were closed today, and there was light traffic everywhere in the city as a result of the gasoline shortage.

Our correspondent reports from Shiraz that demonstrations were staged in various parts of the city today and that the demonstrators set up barricades consisting of burning tires stacked on iron beams. Security forces endeavored to disperse the demonstrators by shooting into the air and using tear gas.

TEHRAN DENIES AIR FORCE COMMANDER HAS RESIGNED

LD041855Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1830 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Some foreign radios have reported that the commander of the imperial Iranian Air Force and the aircorps commander have resigned. In view of the fact that Radio Iran has a practice of broadcasting such news officially, and following contacts made in this respect, we feel justified in categorically denying this report. It should be quite obvious to our listeners that foreign radios have nothing in mind but distorting issues, and thus manipulating the situation, by reporting such news items.

TEHRAN REPORTS 3 JAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN MASJED SOLEYMAN

LD041845Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] Most shops in Abadan were closed today. The city's judges and justice department personnel, who have not reported for work since last 1 January, announced that they will not return to work for another week.

Our correspondent in Abadan reports that yesterday afternoon a series of demonstrations were staged in [words indistinct] in Masjed Soleyman.

PIPELINE WORKERS 'ADVISED' TO RESUME WORK

LD050949Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 5 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The mission which traveled to the southern parts of the country in order to negotiate with oil industry workers has--by issuing a statement--requested the workers and staff of the oil pipeline and ancillary services to return to work.

The statement reads:

In view of the fact that the most basic and essential operation for conveying petroleum products within the country depends on the resumption of the working of the trans-Iranian pipeline and the transmission of products from Abadan's (?depots) to those in Tehran and other cities in the country, all the dear workers and staff members of the pipeline and ancillary services are therefore advised to return to work and to meticulously and very enthusiastically carry out the tasks entrusted to them.

FRENCH PAPER REPORTS PUBLICATION OF TUDEH PARTY 'COMMUNIQUE'

LD031547 [Editorial Report LD] Paris L'HUMANITE in French on 28 December 1978 carries on page 6 a 650-word unattributed report on the latest scenes of violence in Iran and the standstill in the oil industry, which ends with the following reference to the Tudeh Party:

"In a communique published yesterday the communist party of Iran, the Tudeh, appeals 'to the conscience of democrats throughout the world to do all in their power to force the shah's government to cease its barbarous acts and crimes committed against a people who are only demanding their legitimate right....' The Tudeh Party calls once again for 'the formation of a government of national union capable of instituting freedoms, guaranteeing independence and finding a cure for the economic and social crisis in Iran.'"

ADDITIONS TO REPORT ON BAKHTIAR PRESS CONFERENCE

The following additions and changes to the item entitled "Tehran Carries Report on Bakhtiar Press Conference," published in the 4 January Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT, R 1, were taken from Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 4 January, which carried an announcer-read "full text" of Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar's 3 January press conference:

Page R 1, the first four paragraphs are omitted.

Page R 2, insert after first paragraph: ...a different way. In answer to a question regarding the success of his government, Dr Bakhtiar said: We have a constitution and a shah. The constitution has not been implemented in past years and I am the first to cry about it in protest. However, just because the constitution has been ignored does not mean that the shah should therefore leave the country. These are, in my view, two unrelated issues. Another correspondent asked ...

Page R 2, substitute for the eighth and ninth paragraphs: ...one can doubt. With regard to a question about policy on the sale of oil abroad and the export of oil to Israel and South Africa, Dr Bakhtiar said: There are two issues here. One concerns the sale of oil. We certainly cannot refuse to sell oil to countries that want to buy oil from us. However, since the sale of oil to Israel would conflict with our religious views--and also with regard to the sale of oil to South Africa--I should think my government would refrain from selling oil to these two countries.

In answer to a question regarding the crisis that would place Iran against Israel from the religious point of view, Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar said: Israel must reach a settlement with its neighbors. We hope that the Arab-Israeli differences will be resolved as soon as possible in the interest of world peace, particularly peace in the Middle East. A question was ...

Page R 4, substitute for the fourth and fifth paragraphs: ...ideas and concepts. Another correspondent asked about the security of the Persian Gulf.

Mr Bakhtiar said: The Persian Gulf, on the shores of which Iran and a number of Arab countries are situated, is, of course, important in view of the very important resources existing in these countries. We attack importance to Persian Gulf security, but we shall not be a gendarme in the Persian Gulf. We must defend our borders, our country. We shall pursue the same policy in the Persian Gulf as well. The Persian Gulf separates Iran from a number of Arab countries. There are oil resources around the gulf and there is, of course, the question of the foreign trade of the littoral states. We are entitled to want security for the Persian Gulf. This is our legitimate right. I have told the Americans, who had particularly asked me about this issue, that we attach importance to our security but that, henceforth, we shall not endeavor to become what you describe as the gendarme of the Persian Gulf. We shall defend our shores if necessary. Another correspondent asked ...

Page R 6, the last paragraph of the item is omitted.

INDIA

MANUFACTURE OF ALTERNATE NUCLEAR FUEL SAID POSSIBLE

BK041616Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 79 BK

[Text] According to an official of the Atomic Energy Department, Indian nuclear engineers are in a position to deliver alternative fuel for the Tarapore nuclear powerplant. He said that in the case the United States stops the supply, the fuel can be made available within 2 years. The official told the PTI in Hyderabad today that the technology for manufacturing the alternative fuel is ready. One of its components is indigenously available. There is difficulty regarding the other component because of our agreement with the United States.

The official dispelled fears about Tarapore having to close down. But the plant for making rods at the nuclear fuel complex at Hyderabad is at present under utilized. The reason is that the 16.9 tons of enriched uranium from America has not arrived.

It may be recalled that the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, has made it clear that if the United States did not honor its obligation regarding the supply of fuel, India will be free to make alternative arrangements.

PAKISTAN

SRV'S TRINH COMPLETES 3-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT, LEAVES

BK030830Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 3 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh, left Islamabad this morning for home at the end of a 3-day official visit to Pakistan. The adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, and members of the Vietnam diplomatic mission in Islamabad saw him off at the airport.

ASHGAR KHAN'S PARTY WILL NOT JOIN PNA

BK011331Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Jan 79 BK

[Excerpt] The Tehrik-I-Istiqlal chief, Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, has said his party will neither enter into any election alliance with any other political party for the coming general elections nor will it rejoin the PNA [Pakistan National Alliance]. Talking to newsmen at Peshawar this afternoon, he said the PNA leaders were confusing the nation by appealing to the Tehrik to rejoin the alliance.

CHARGES FILED AGAINST AZAD KASHMIR OFFICIALS

BK011746Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Jan 79 BK

[Text] In Azad Kashmir, cases have been instituted in a special court against power holders of representative offices. The accused are: a former president of Azad Kashmir and former speaker of the assembly, (Manzar Masud); a former adviser to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir council, Pir Ali Jan Shah; a former member of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council, (Choudhry Abdullah); and a former MLA [member of the Legislative Assembly], (Isaq Zafar).

Another special court has summoned four politicians. They are the former prime minister, Mr Abdul Hamid Khan; two former ministers, Mian Ghulam Rasul, and (Choudhry Tahmet Ali); and a former adviser to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council, Choudhry Nur Hussain.